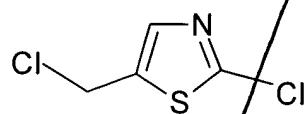


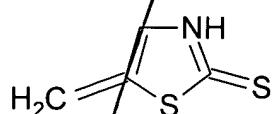
1. (Amended) A process for preparing [the] a compound of the formula



I,

which comprises

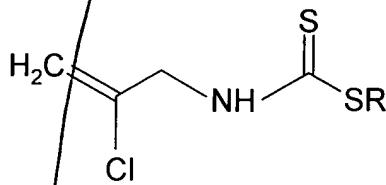
- a) reacting a [the known] compound of the formula



II,

in free form or in salt form, with a chlorinating agent, or

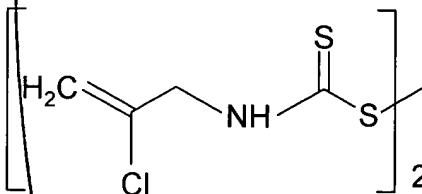
- (b) reacting a compound of the formula



III,

[which is known or can be prepared by methods known per se and] in which R is C₁-C₆alkyl, C₃-C₆cycloalkyl or an unsubstituted or mono- to pentasubstituted aryl or aryl-C₁-C₄alkyl group, where the substituents are selected from the group consisting of halogen and C₁-C₄alkyl, with a chlorinating agent, or

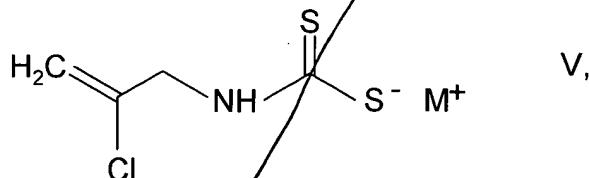
- c) reacting [the] a compound of the formula



IV

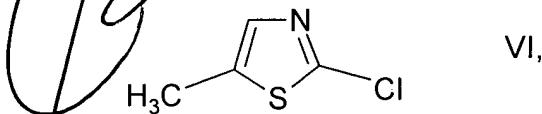
with a chlorinating agent, or

d) reacting a compound of the formula



[which is known or can be prepared by methods known per se and] in which M⁺ is an alkali metal ion, one equivalent of an alkaline earth metal ion or is a nonalkylated ammonium ion or an ammonium ion which is alkylated with from one to four identical or different alkyl radicals, [and is preferably a potassium ion or, in particular, a sodium ion.] with a chlorinating agent, or

e) reacting [the] a compound of the formula



[which is known,] in the presence or absence of a free-radical catalyst, with a chlorinating agent, or

f1) first reacting the compound of [the] formula II or the compound 2-mercaptop-5-methyl-thiazole, in each case in free form or in salt form, with a chlorinating agent, and

f2) subjecting the compound of [the] formula VI [which is obtainable in this way] to further reaction, with or without isolating it, with a chlorinating agent in accordance with variant e), or

g) subjecting a compound of [the] formula V either

g1.1) first to treatment with a base and

g1.2) the compound of the formula II [thus obtainable], in free form or in salt form, with or without isolating it, to further reaction with a chlorinating agent in accordance with variant a) or in accordance with variant f1/f2), or

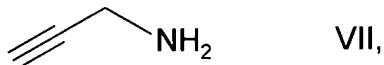
g2.1) first to reaction with a compound of the formula RX[, which is known or can be prepared by methods known per se and] in which R is as defined for the formula III and X is a leaving group, and

g2.2) the compound of [the] formula III [thus obtainable], with or without isolating it, to further reaction with a chlorinating agent in accordance with variant b), or

g3.1) first of all to reaction with an oxidizing agent, optionally in the presence [or absence] of a base, and

g3.2) the compound of the formula IV [thus obtainable], with or without isolating it, to further reaction with a chlorinating agent in accordance with variant c), or

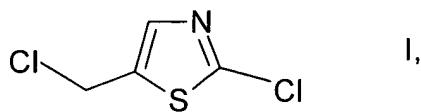
h1) reacting the compound of [the] formula



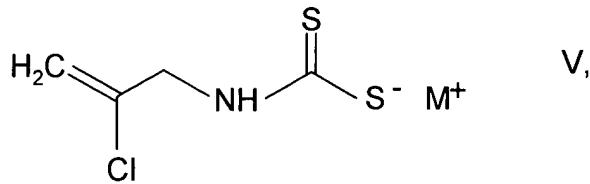
[which is known,] first of all with carbon disulfide, optionally in the presence [or absence] of a base, and

h2) further reacting the compound of the formula II [thus obtainable], in free form or in salt form, with or without isolating it, with a chlorinating agent in accordance with variant a) or in accordance with variant f1/f2).

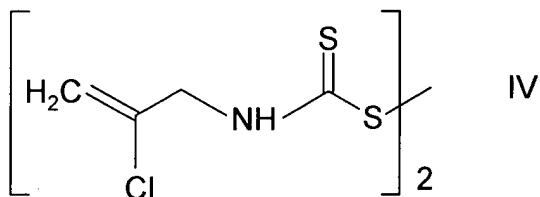
61. (Amended) [A] The process according to claim 1 for the preparation of the compound of [the] formula



which comprises reacting a compound of [the] formula

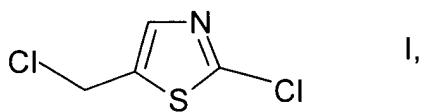


in which M⁺ is as defined in claim 1, with an oxidizing agent, optionally in the presence [or absence] of a base, and further reacting the compound thus obtainable, of the formula

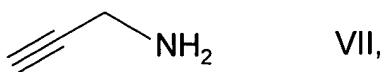


with or without isolating it, with a chlorinating agent.

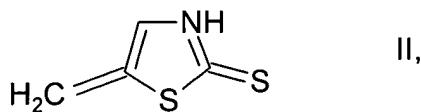
62. (Amended) A process according to claim 1 for the preparation of a compound of the formula



which comprises reacting the compound of the formula

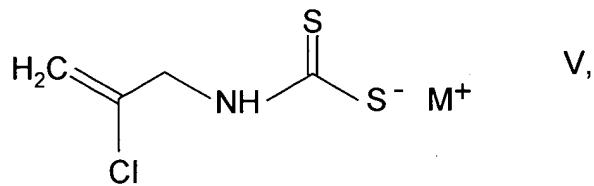


with carbon disulfide, optionally in the presence [or absence] of a base, and further reacting the compound thus obtainable, of the formula



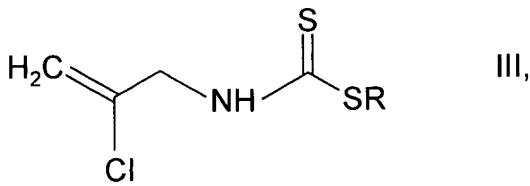
in free form or in salt form and with or without isolating it, with a chlorinating agent.

64. (Amended) A process for the preparation of the compound according to claim 63[, of the formula IV,] which comprises reacting a compound of the formula



in which M^+ is an alkali metal ion, one equivalent of an alkaline earth metal ion or is a nonalkylated ammonium ion or an ammonium ion which is alkylated with from one to four identical or different alkyl radicals [as defined in claim 1], with an oxidizing agent, optionally in the presence [or absence] of a base.

67. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound [according to claim 66,] of the formula [III],



which comprises reacting a compound of the formula